

# Indus Valley civilisation may pre-date

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- Indus Valley Civilisation known for well-planned cities
- Experts carbon dated pottery and animal bones at Bhirrana
- They now believe the civilisation is around 8,000 years old
- It is thought climate change may not have destroyed the civilisation

By [SARAH GRIFFITHS FOR MAILONLINE](#)**PUBLISHED:** 13:02 GMT, 2 June 2016 | **UPDATED:** 17:06 GMT, 2 June 2016
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With its impressive pyramids and complex rules, Ancient Egypt may seem to many the epitome of an advanced early civilisation.


But new evidence suggests the Indus Valley Civilisation in India and Pakistan, famed for its well-planned cities and impressive crafts, predates Egypt and Mesopotamia.


Already considered one of the oldest civilisations in the world, experts now believe it is 8,000 years old - 2,500 years older than previously thought.


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
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**With its impressive pyramids and complex rules Ancient Egypt may seem to many the epitome of an advanced early civilisation. However, new evidence suggests the Indus Valley Civilisation in India and Pakistan, famed for its well-planned cities and impressive crafts, predates Egypt and Mesopotamia**

Their study also sheds new light on why the seemingly flourishing civilisation collapsed.

A team of researchers from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Institute of Archaeology, Deccan College Pune, and IIT Kharagpur, have analysed pottery fragments and animal bones from the Bhirrana in the north of the country using carbon dating methods.

'Based on radiocarbon ages from different trenches and levels the settlement at Bhirrana has been inferred to be the oldest (>9 ka BP) in the Indian sub-continent,' the experts wrote in Nature's **Scientific Reports** journal.

They used also used 'optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) method' to check the dating and investigate whether the

## THE INDUS PEOPLE: KEY FACTS

The Indus civilisation - also known as the Harappan civilisation - thrived from 2600 to 1900 BC.

Along with Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, it was one of three early civilisations of the Old World.

The Empire stretched from the Arabian Sea to the Ganges, over what is now Pakistan, India and Afghanistan.

At its peak, the civilisation may have had a population of more than 5 million, making up 10 per cent of the world's population.

Among their settlements, researchers have uncovered the world's first known

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climate changed when the civilisation was thriving, to fill 'a critical gap in information ... [about] the Harappan [Indus Valley] civilisation.'

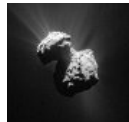
While more tests are required, the study suggests the Indus Valley Civilisation pre-dates those of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, which are also famed for their impressive ability to build organised cities.

It's thought the civilisation spread across parts of what is now Pakistan and northwest India in the Bronze Age and at its peak, some five million people lived in one million square miles along citadels built near the basins of the Indus River.

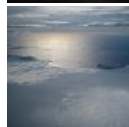
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'Based on radiocarbon ages from different trenches and levels the settlement at Bhirrana has been inferred to be the oldest (>9 ka BP) in the Indian sub-continent,' the experts wrote in Nature's Scientific Reports journal

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Indian caretaker Hirabhai Makwana inspects the ancient bricks at the drainage site in the ancient town of Lothal. While more tests are required, the study suggests the Indus Valley



## Civilisation pre-dates those of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, which are also famed for their impressive ability to build organised cities

Pottery and metals discovered at various ancient sites in the region indicate the people were skilled craftsmen and metallurgists, able to work copper, bronze, lead and tin, as well as bake bricks and control the supply and drainage of water.

Anindya Sarkar, a professor at the department of geology and geophysics at IIT Kharagpur, told **International Business Times**: 'Our study pushes back the antiquity to as old as 8th millennium before present and will have major implications to the evolution of human settlements in Indian sub-continent.'

The archaeological sites at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro in Pakistan, show the ancient people were adept town planners and farmers.

Discovered in the 1920s, the Unesco site of Mohenjo-daro is one of the largest and most advanced settlements of the Indus Valley Civilisation, with streets arranged round rectangular brick houses, two large assembly halls, a market place, public baths and a central well.

Individual households got their water from smaller wells and waste water was channelled into main streets, with some more lavish properties boasting their own bath and a second storey.

## SERIOUSLY SOPHISTICATED CITIES

The Indus Valley Civilisation possessed considerable skills when it came to town planning and building.

The cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro are laid out in grids, with individual homes supplied with water from wells and waste water diverted to covered drains. This is perhaps the world's first known sanitation system.

Some houses had two storeys, a bath and courtyard.

The needs of cities were also catered for, with municipal buildings, marketplaces, dockyards, granaries, warehouses and protective walls to shield inhabitants from floods and attack.

Interestingly, unlike in Ancient Egypt, for example, no evidence of temples or places have been found, yet evidence suggests there would have been a social hierarchy.

It's thought most city dwellers were traders or artisans, with elaborate pottery, beads and metalwork recovered.

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It's thought the civilisation spread across parts of what is now Pakistan and northwest India in the Bronze Age and at its peak, some five million people lived in one million square miles along citadels built near the basins of the Indus River

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Indian caretaker Hirabhai Makwana inspects the ancient bricks at the Acropolis site. Experts have previously suggested the seemingly successful and advanced civilisation was gradually



## wiped out when the Indus River dried up as the result of climate change

Experts have previously suggested the seemingly successful and advanced civilisation was gradually wiped out when the Indus River dried up as the result of climate change.

There are many other theories too, including an Aryan invasion, catastrophic floods, changing sea levels, societal violence and the spread of infectious diseases.

But the team has come up with a new theory.

'Our study suggests that the climate was probably not the cause of Harappan decline,' they wrote.

While the ancient people relied upon heavy and regular monsoons between 9,000 and 7,000 years ago to water their crops, after this period, evidence at Bhirrana shows people continued to survive despite changing weather patterns.

'Increasing evidences suggest that these people shifted their crop patterns from the large-grained cereals like wheat and barley during the early part of intensified monsoon to drought-resistant species of small millets and rice in the later part of declining monsoon and thereby changed their subsistence strategy,' they continued.

However, changing the crops they grew and harvested resulted in the 'de-urbanisation' of cities and no need for large food storage facilities. Instead, the people swapped to personal storage spaces to look after their families.

'Because these later crops generally have much lower yield, the organised large storage system of mature Harappan period was abandoned giving rise to smaller more individual household based crop processing and storage system and could act as catalyst for the de-urbanisation of the Harappan civilization rather than an abrupt collapse,' the team wrote.



Indian caretaker Hirabhai Makwana cleans the ancient furnace

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## WERE THE INDUS WIPED OUT BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

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No one yet knows why such a great civilisation disappeared.

One theory, which emerged in 2012, is that climate change led to the collapse of the ancient Indus civilisation more than 4,000 years ago.

A study also resolves a long-standing debate over the source and fate of the Sarasvati, the sacred river of Hindu mythology, the authors believe.

Over five years an international team combined satellite photos and topographic data to make digital maps of landforms constructed by the Indus and neighbouring rivers.

They then probed in the field by drilling, coring, and even manually-dug trenches and samples were tested.

Co-author Dorian Fuller, an archaeologist with University College London, said: 'Once we had this new information on the geological history, we could re-examine what we know about settlements

'This brought new insights into the process of eastward population shift, the change towards many more small farming communities, and the decline of cities during late Harappan times.'

The study suggests the decline in monsoon rains led to weakened river dynamics, and played a critical role both in the development and the collapse of the Indus culture.



**No one yet knows why such a great civilisation disappeared. Pictured are the remains of the Granaries of Harappa, Pakistan**

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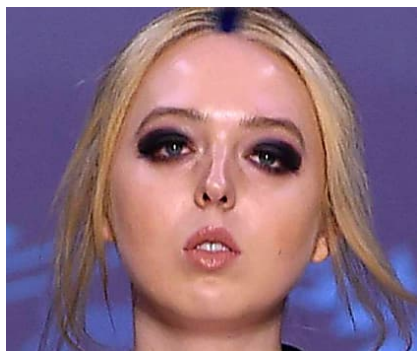
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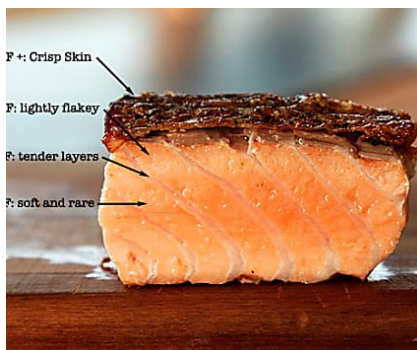
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carlinc, cheltenham UK, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

Dd 06 someone with same idea as me. So much history we will never know but very interesting tho'. Perhaps in a couple of thousand years after we've GONE the new civilisation will be trying work us out.

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Street store in  
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**Dd06**, Brighton, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

And we still have history classes that teach us about the last century, milenia, and a few milenia. What about the other billions of years? Get real, theres far more history out there.

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2



**carlinc**, cheltenham UK, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

Personally I think there have been many civilisations on this plant since time began. Each one starting and evolving as we have. I also think that some of them were extremely intelligent and more advanced than us. You only have to consider what we already know, ie the Pyramids and amazing cities that were built in past times. And so many things that scientists cannot explain. What happened, is anyone's guess. Perhaps they caused their own demise or perhaps it was nature. It's a continuous cycle, then the planet resets and it starts all over again.

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3



**one vote**, portland, United States, 1 year ago

Every continent on earth has buildings build from rocks that weigh many tons. India is interesting by itself having temples carved in to rock with beautiful designs. In Russia and Siberia only recently archeologist have recovered collapsed rock buildings. Around the world each of these archaeology sites point to world wide environmental disaster... Such as flood. There are hundreds of folk stories of flood. Chinese characters, used till Chinese simplified their writing, by them self point to Noah's flood. Non of these are circumstantial evidence and is worth investigating. Or you can ignore it.

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19

9



**Newtate**, Hereford, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

I have changed by username to Newtate of Hereford, as the old one was being imitated by greenneey f a n t a s i s t s. (Old Tatamlyle.)

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4

7



**haradin**, surfers paradise, Australia, 1 year ago

I dare not think of the lifeforms in England 8000 yrs ago if they existed. Might have been a great place to go on a safari with binoculars to see the natives perched high on the treetops.

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10



**john-john**, London, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

It was not known as India to these ancients either; Hinduism formed 3500-4000 years ago, these lot are the precursors.

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16

61



**Superman**, Toronto, India, 1 year ago

Hahahahaha John deary me is that what you lot are being taught in Schools all over that little Island you call England. Hinduism is just a made up word which has no meaning, the word itself probably came to be when you lot came to our lands to rob us. The correct

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followers



word is Sanatan Dharma, meaning Eternal Righteousness, Duty, Law used in many different context and no Sir it's no religion, where in religion is just a small part of the greatness of Sanatan Dharma. Sanatan Dharma has existed for as long as Men have walked on this blue and green planet of ours.

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104

17




listen yeah, beverageville, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

I thought Findus was in England?

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2

33



praiselordjesus, chippenham, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

clearly they perished in the flood

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6

37

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RWT, York, 1 year ago

May have done. The Indus is known to flood and may have been the source of the flood myths common to many religions.

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11

2



Richard, Wimborne, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

Oh, no ! - Come and learn about REALITY. Stop wasting your time wailing, pleading and supplicating yourself at the cold empty universe. The universe doesn't care about us.

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3

5



pfreeworld, naperville, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

cue the ignorant fools from UK and US spout incorrect trash. It was never a misogynistic society until the two western religions entered and destroyed that land for over 1000 years. F o o I S!!!!

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22



overandout, nowhereland, 1 year ago

so the Mogals came bearing the cross? I do believe it was our old favourite, I\*\*am

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18

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that she prefe  
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'One Harry go  
today and now  
two??': Rebel  
hints she and  
Styles are set  
down the aisle



► **Headed Down**  
Meghan Mark  
to join Prince  
Australia for c  
first internatic  
as a married c

► **Axed I'm A C**  
star Jack May  
distastefully r  
of rape in late  
tweets... after  
with Love Isla  
Danielle Selle

► **Proud dad C**  
Ronaldo shar  
father-daught  
with baby Eva  
enjoys time at  
Real Madrid to  
ground

► **Serena Willi**  
fans a glimps  
her and Alexis  
Ohanian's exc  
\$35,000-per-w  
honeymoon g  
a private islar  
plugging Boo

► **'She wants r**  
something' ar  
'Goddammit!'  
Lipreaders ex  
what tickled h  
Meghan in mu  
behind the sc

► **Ab-baring B**  
Vincent slips  
sheer gym ge  
reveals she's  
'small size 8'  
Dancing On Ice  
regime

► **Braless Ales**  
displays her c  
a lace up dres  
plunging necl  
she joins her  
beau for a F1  
performance i  
Dhabi

► **Mollie King :  
VERY close w  
partner AJ Pri  
they cosy up  
stroll... hours  
'former flame'  
Harry's weddi**

► **Jodie Sweet  
documents to  
husband's rec  
more child su  
she reveals sl  
\$40K a month**

► **Jennifer Huc  
estranged hus  
PRIMARY CU  
their son beca  
has to travel f  
as she DROP  
protection'**

► **How Meghar  
baptised into  
Church of Eng  
please her ne  
grandmother  
(after a Catho  
schooling and  
first wedding'**

► **Spencer Mat  
can't keep his  
gorgeous girl  
Vogue William  
flaunts her ab  
top and leggin  
fitness shoot**

► **'You look ill'  
express conc  
Ruby Rose's '  
as she attend  
Awards amid  
her weight ha  
to 'just 44kg'**

► **Fallen Angel  
Hosk parades  
endless legs i  
thigh-high bo  
slinky blue gc  
struts her stu**

► **'It's humiliat  
have his man  
discussed' : F  
Andre 'mortifi  
former one-ni  
Rebekah Vard  
awkward chip  
comparison n**



► **PICTURE EX**  
**Kerry Katona**  
 her stomach c  
 workout with  
 Pickston... as  
 confirms she  
 'moved in' wit

► **Mom on the**  
**Pregnant Jes**  
 covers up her  
 bump in a loo  
 dress and pla  
 she attends b  
 meetings

► **Dawn Frencl**  
 spending her  
 years warring  
 mother until s  
 realised she v  
 closest darlin  
 always had he

► **'She's so sir**  
**mother': Mark**  
 credits Billie I  
 helping heal t  
 in the Star Wa  
 universe by C  
 Fisher's deat

► **Meghan Mar**  
 parents set to  
 limelight at he  
 to Harry: Her  
 mother 'will b  
 ceremony at W  
 Castle

► **Sheer daring**  
**Lopez display**  
 white bra in a  
 mesh top as s  
 cuddles beau  
 Rodriguez in  
 snap  
 Racy date outf

► **Chic in the c**  
**Jennifer Lope**  
 into a skintigt  
 dress as she  
 Second Act w  
 Vanessa Hudg  
 New York

► **Duchess of**  
 displays her r  
 in a designer  
 she steps out  
 just hours aft  
 Markle hailed  
 in-law-to-be a  
 'amazing'

► 'She would go  
a rocket if sor  
referred to he  
Loose Women  
slam Saira Kh  
referring to M  
'brown prince

► Why Meghan  
wedding dres  
to be a 'classi  
simple' gown  
by Carolyn Be  
Kennedy (and  
traditional like

► 'She told me  
taking the dog  
Meghan Mark  
her first rescu  
because Eller  
DeGeneres in  
do so

► Pop Idol win  
Michelle McM  
reveals her fa  
VERY boozy j  
her Scottish v  
as she admits  
'nosy' on soci

► Well suited!  
Ridley looks s  
plunging plaie  
and matching  
she arrives at  
Morning Ame

► 'Most beauti  
the world' Thy  
Blondeau, 16,  
sporty figure  
and leggings  
holds hands v  
companion in

► 'Thank you f  
me, it's so mu  
not to sit alon  
Thurman shai  
poignant imag  
calling out Ha  
Weinstein

► X Factor's R  
swamped by c  
fans during th  
homecoming  
ahead of the  
competition's  
finale

► **'Newly engaged'**  
Gwyneth Paltrow  
her assets in  
blazer ensemble  
attends exclusive  
Perla dinner in  
York City

► **Princess Plum**  
Meghan uses  
power to subvert  
her friends' business  
ventures (but she  
have to stop vultures)  
marries Harry

► **Harry's ex C**  
Bonas dons a  
inspired dress  
cosies up to J  
Arthur in new  
amid news of  
engagement t

► **PICTURED:**  
Christopher P  
spotted on se  
Money In The  
first time after  
was drafted in  
replace disgraced  
Spacey

► **I'm A Celeb**  
Rebekah Vard  
off some side  
she almost sp  
her bright blue  
during jungle  
scene

► **Kanye believ**  
Amber Rose t  
striking resen  
Kim in striking  
wig as she fla  
assets in shee  
Hollywood nig

► **Ex-Coronatio**  
star Bruno La  
reveals he is l  
treated for alc  
problem as he  
sign sex offer  
register

► **'I thought sh**  
proud of her f  
figure!' Gemm  
is accused of  
Photoshopping  
Instagram sna  
slimmer by fa



► **PICTURE EX**  
**Make-up free**  
**Collins break**  
 sweat as she  
 curves in a tra  
 after gym ses

► **No sign of A**  
**Declan Donne**  
 a game of bea  
 football witho  
 presenting pa  
 stepping out  
 manager wife

► **Naomi Watts**  
 up in a cozy c  
 knitted hat as  
 her sons to se  
 their pet pooch  
 The actress, 41  
 flying solo on 7

► **'It's not what**  
**hoped for': Ch**  
 for a lonely Cl  
 period as Liar  
 busy schedul  
 him apart from  
 baby son Bea

► **SPOILER AL**  
**Two! Katie Mc**  
 dons stunning  
 dress to film  
 Chesney's we  
 after actor Se  
 illness delaye

► **Chic Holly d**  
 fans as she sl  
 leather mini s  
 hot pink roll n  
 admitting wor  
 falling pregna  
 Dancing On Ice

► **Will THIS be**  
 and Harry's co  
 love nest? £7.  
 Cotswold mar  
 to Prince's Hi  
 childhood ho  
 taken off the r

► **Already a ro**  
**How Meghan**  
 tradition by sl  
 tights for the  
 announcemer  
 engagement t  
 (but should sl

► **Ermine edge and a creamy pure America JAN MOIR give view from the loved up Harry Meghan's first**

► **'When's the Olympics?' P... Edwards strip underwear as attempts a role across her beautiful hilarious video**

► **Ricky Hattori he was on the suicide after his defeat to Floyd Mayweather's spiral into drugs**

► **Usher and his wife Grace he low-key veggie Hollywood as move on from \$20million he lawsuit**

► **Make-up free Hayes looks cute as she goes Christmas shopping with Frankie... after down over err split from ex I**

► **Open AM to up free Christ dresses down to stock up at pharmacy**  
The singer, 36 make-up free

► **Ex On The Beach Kayleigh Mori a seriously eye display in skin bikini as she shows some winter sun Tenerife**

► **Grammy nominees are announced Kendrick Lamar Bruno Mars lead way... but their oddly NO WOMAN top**

► **Daisy Ridley galaxy far, far from her Star character in e leather jacket shades as she low-key arriva**

► **Making a co Age-defying E Hazzard star ( 63, dazzles in for dinner in L years after pla Daisy in iconi**

► **'There's not that's gone by haven't cried' McCann break over ex Arthu arrest in emot trailer for real**

► **That's how s Giggling Kate rocks a beehi she leaves the studios with a roller in her h**

► **Gold rush! K Kardashian co naked body ir announce nev Beauty produ Certainly know sparkle**

► **Casey Batch flaunts her ev baby bump in embellished b she continues her 'babymoo Cyprus**

► **Catherine Ze arrives at JFK with husband Douglas and 1 children Dylan Carys... after | him as her 'be**

► **The OTHER wedding! Mor society decan London as Pr Christian of H weds fashion in civil cerem**



► 'She's a star gushes over her to-be stepdaughter Meghan Markle as she and Prince Harry meet pantomime in Stoke

► Casually-clad Hough, 32, coos over his leggy girlfriend Hayley Erbert as they touch down after romantic getaway

► Daisy Ridley galaxy far, far from her Star Wars character in a leather jacket shades as she low-key arrives

► Wrapping up Queen Letizia chic in a voluminous grey coat as she King Felipe in de la Cruz to mark town's Jubilee

► There's something fishy about the Beckham show as latest culinary adventure as samples COD a Japanese restaurant

► 'Knowing they be married no the world to us Hollyoaks stars Adams celebrate groom shows wedding

► Is Bahrain-born designer and mystery match Estranged wife Harry's friend 'set couple up blind date'

► Jeremy Clarkson and his girlfriend Hogan, 46, keep a brisk walk... revealing he's doctor's order up drink

► **'I'm going to Tensions boil between Rebel and Shappi K in I'm A Celeb Stanley Johns**  
**Iain Lee 'obst**

► **Man with the worst case of shouts 'k\*\*bh during an inte This Morning and Holly war he'll 'speak fr**

► **'Has nobody You've given i feel!': Ant and CONFIRM the returning for a series of Satu Takeaway**

► **How Megha from a seedy Angeles tener Palace: The a she inherited father and the side she got f mum**

► **From Megha family snaps t own happily e Dazzling phot celebrates the of a VERY mo princess**

► **EXCLUSIVE get married at Savoy!' Kelly addresses Je Parisi engage rumours... as continues to f**

► **Shocked Ma Robbie appea her balance ir stiletto heels makes a show entrance to IF Awards in Ne City**

► **Very sauce-y clad Emily Ra writhes aroun spaghetti as s sultry Jourda sizzling Love calendar 2018**

► **Braless Ola**  
poses seduct  
wet T-shirt an  
bottoms as sh  
showcases he  
physique for s  
2018 calendar

► **Chloe Moret**  
**Brooklyn Bec**  
copy each oth  
in matching lo  
shirts as they  
romantic hike  
glamping trip

► **Dame Angel**  
**Lansbury, 92,**  
women who h  
sexually hara  
be blamed for  
themselves lo  
attractive'

► **Keeping Up**  
**Grandchildren**  
Jenner splash  
\$9.9 million o  
bathroom Hid  
home comple  
person spa

► **'This candy**  
come for free  
Collins flaunt  
curves in glar  
fashion shoot  
TOWIE star re  
she's into 'kin

► **We've got a**  
**Jersey Shore**  
**CONFIRMED :**  
announce 'far  
vacation' reur  
without one o  
cast member

► **'She's been**  
down': I'm A C  
bosses 'unim  
with MSP Kez  
for barely tryi  
tasks and ign  
campmates

► **'They are mo**  
welcoming ov  
Lauren Goodg  
shade at ex M  
and his new c  
claiming it is '  
make it in the



► **'Firemen we  
bras and lipst  
Fisher puts on  
busty display  
plunging eme  
services unifo  
of Arrested  
Development**

► **Holly Willou  
'jokes about g  
pregnant for a  
time during D  
Ice reboot'... a  
expecting dur  
previous serie**

► **'This beautif  
tripped and fe  
life': Lovestru  
reveals how h  
down on one  
they cooked r  
chicken in his**

► **The one that  
Prince Harry's  
girlfriend Crea  
Bonas parties  
London socia  
amid engager  
to Meghan Ma**

► **Meghan's ex  
goes to work  
Hollywood as  
engagement i  
announced - a  
wonder he's s  
he's planning**

► **Adam Levin  
Behati Prinslo  
make \$900,00  
their five bedr  
Holmby Hills  
as they put it  
market for \$11**



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shouldn't p

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of 'blacksp

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